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CREATING STRATEGIES FOR EDUCATIONAL
AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

CREATING ACCELERATED 9-13 DEGREE PATHWAYS: USING EARLY COLLEGE TO DRIVE SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PARTNERSHIPS
OCTOBER 28, 2012



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

JFF's mission is to help young people and adults struggling most in today's world succeed in education and careers. We are committed to ensuring that all low-income youth and adults attain postsecondary credentials with value in the labor market.

To accomplish this, JFF focuses on three key goals:

1. Accelerate the number of low-income high school students who graduate **college and career ready** with postsecondary momentum
2. Accelerate **postsecondary attainment and career advancement** through education and career pathways leading to credentials with value in the labor market
3. Significantly alter the national conversation so that **aligned education and career advancement systems** are the expected norm and supported in national and state policy and capacity

Expanding
Opportunity
Today and for
America's Next
Generation



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

- A rigorous college-prep academic program aligned to college-ready standards for all students, including those underrepresented in traditional concurrent enrollment programs
- A sequence of free key college courses as part of the high school program of study
- Significant exposure to the college environment and culture
- Wraparound supports focused on high school and college completion

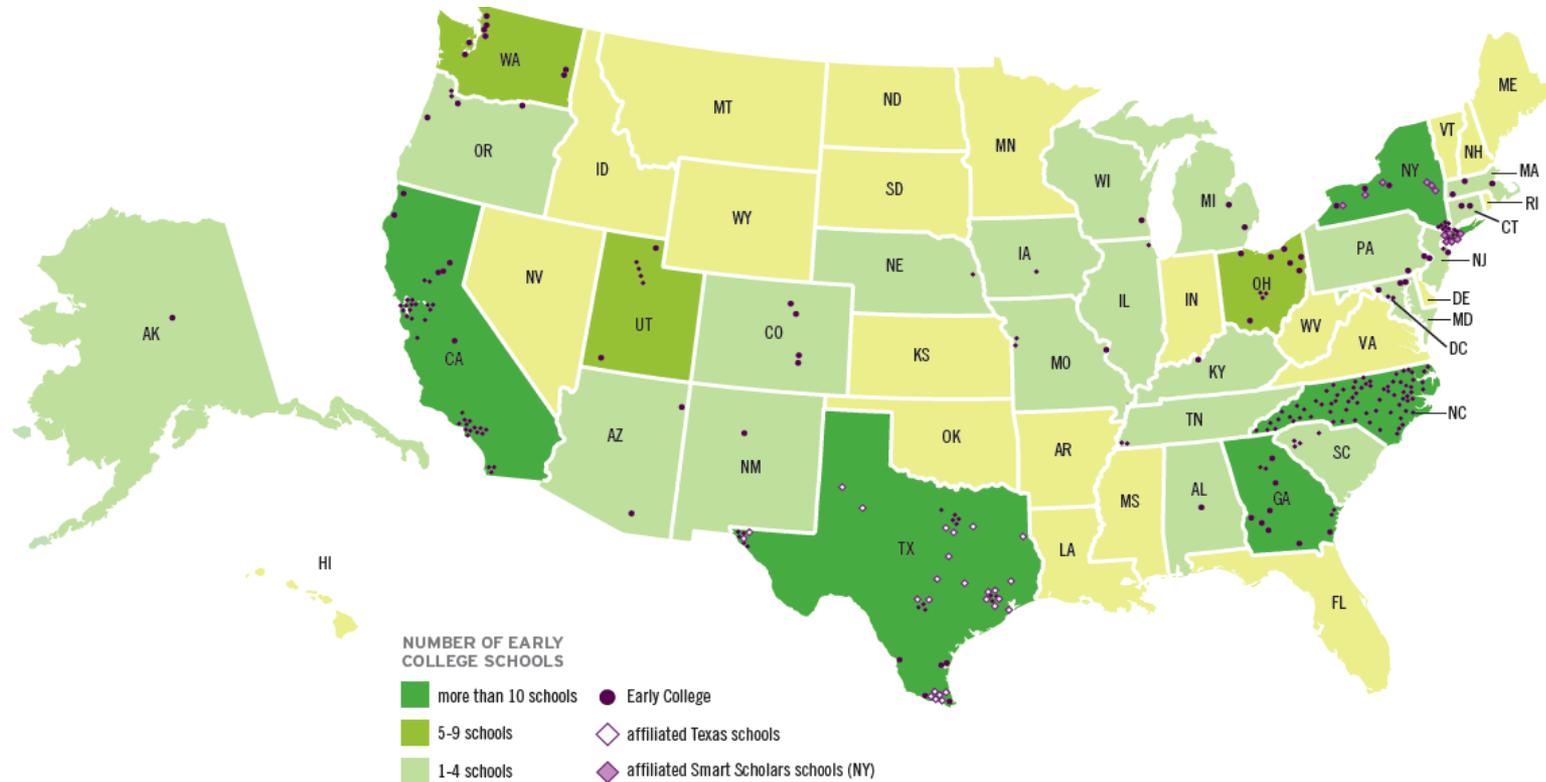
The premise of early college is that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator to complete high school and earn postsecondary credentials.

EARLY COLLEGE NATIONAL PICTURE

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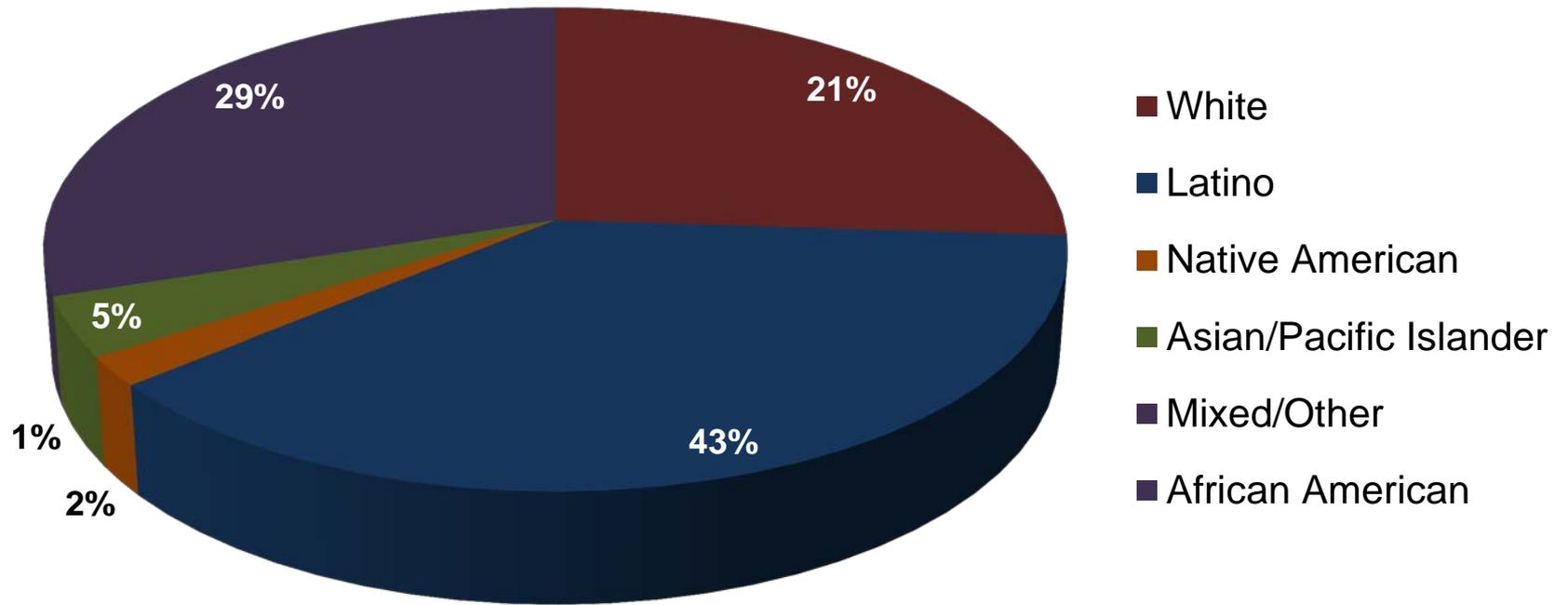
There are currently 340 early college schools across the country serving some 90,000 students.

WHO DO EARLY COLLEGE SCHOOLS SERVE?

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Graduation rates: 93% of early college students graduate from high school compared to 76% of students in their respective districts.

College credit attainment in high school: By graduation, early college students earn 23 college credits on average, and 56% of the 2011 graduates earned two years of college credit or an AA degree.

College enrollment: At least 72% of graduating early college high school students enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 55% of graduates nationally from schools where a majority of students, like early college schools, receive free or reduced price lunch.

Persistence rates: At least 82% of early college high school graduates persist to their second year in college, compared to 69% of low-income students or first-generation college goers nationally.

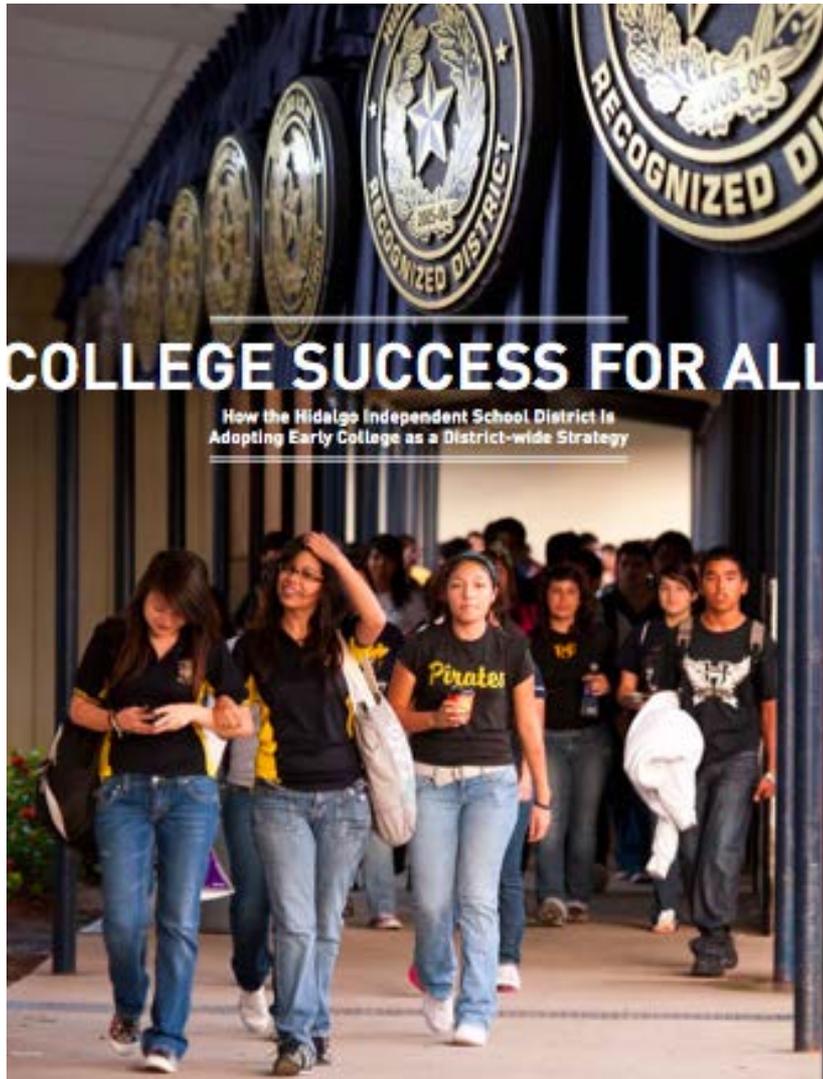
Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Research Findings (NC & TX):

- Early college students are enrolling and progressing in key college preparatory classes at a **higher rate** compared to control group students
- The ECHS design is **closing the achievement gap** for students of color
- Early college students **outperformed their peers** in comparison schools
- Concurrent enrollment students **enter, persist in, and graduate from college** at higher rates than their peers.

- **For Students:** Free college courses with support motivates students to accelerate; completed college course work is strong signal of college readiness; at high school graduation, students are already college students
- **For Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions:** Alignment of high school college and career ready standards with college courses; students enter college without need for remediation
- **For States:** Return on investment in lower cost to degree completion, more college graduates

OUR AIM: Move from small early college schools to district early college designs. All students are supported to achieve at least 12 college credits by the end of high school and get on a clear pathway to earn a postsecondary credential.

- **Early College High Schools:** Small schools with a close postsecondary partnership where all students receive significant supports to help them earn an Associate's degree or up to two years of college credit.
- **Grade 9-13 high school redesigns:** Redesign of the high school course of study so all students can earn at least 12 college credits. Concurrent enrollment options can include introductory math and composition courses, as well as STEM and CTE coursework.
- **Back on Track Through College:** Schools and programs targeted to older youth who are returning dropouts or significantly off track to graduation. Back on Track schools adapt the early college design, providing a supported transition to and through the first year of postsecondary.



What makes Hidalgo ISD an Early College District?

- College credits for all students
- College-going culture
- Academic alignment and rigor
- Career and technical pathways
- Comprehensive student supports

THE HIDALGO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rural district encompassing **36 square miles.**

Spanish is the home language for over **85% of residents.**

Southern boundary parallels the **Rio Grande River.**

Includes 4 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school, and 1 alternative high school

Total Enrollment: **3,519 students**

Student Demographics (2008-09):

- 99.5% Hispanic, 0.2% African American, 0.2% White, 0.1% Asian/Pacific Islander
- **89% Economically Disadvantaged**
- **72% At Risk**
- **56% Limited English Proficient**

Sources: Hidalgo Independent School District and Texas Education Agency (TEA), "2008-09 Academic Excellence Indicator System," 2008-09 District Profile for Hidalgo ISD.



- More than **95 percent** of the Class of 2010 earned college credit during high school.
- In total, the students in the Class of 2010 earned a combined **3,743 college credit hours**.
- **Two thirds** of the students earned at least a semester of credit.



Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Goal:

Create district-wide portfolio of options that enable all students to graduate high school with significant college credits.

Key Strategies:

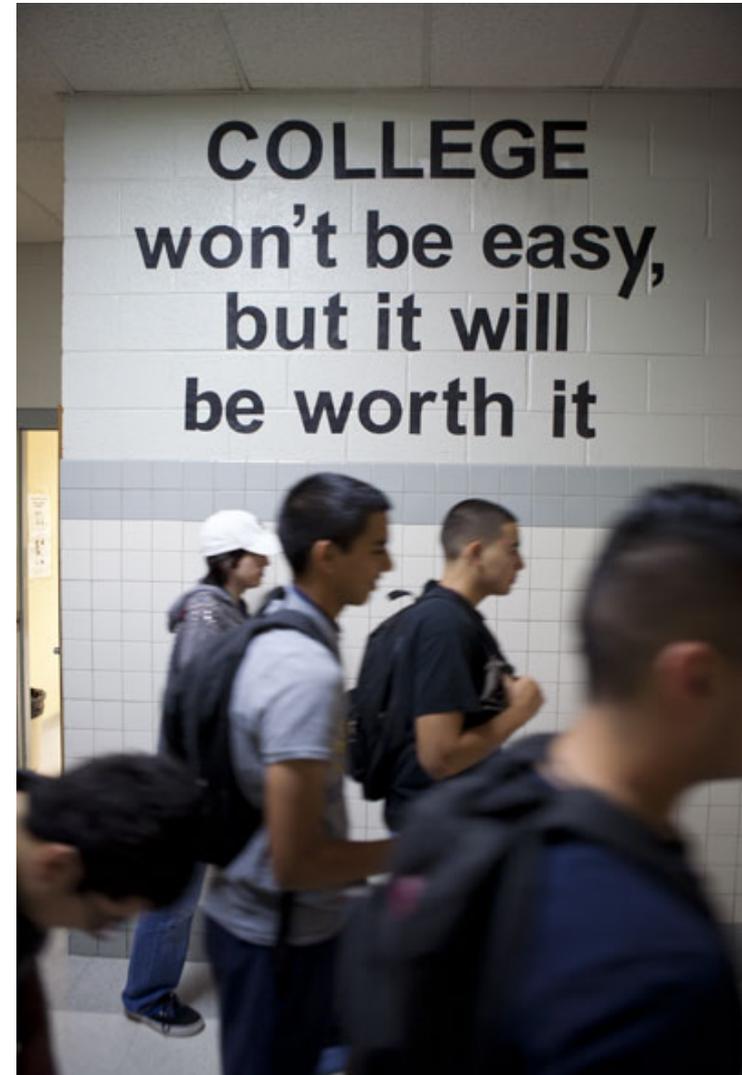
- **Start with most underserved** by identifying youth not graduating and launching Back on Track to College school (College, Career, and Technology Academy)
- **Expand to district-wide portfolio** of early college designs
- **Strengthen academic program** across all schools so that all students meet college and career ready standards while in high school to prepare for post-secondary success
- **Increase dual enrollment opportunities and enhance career pathways** to prepare students for post-secondary success
- **Support students' post-secondary transitions** by deepening partnerships with IHEs, increasing campus-based counseling, and providing additional transition support for graduates.



- Developed a range of postsecondary options to enable a broad student population to earn college credits.
- Achieved support of college administrators who could champion cause and leverage the necessary resources
- Created aligned coursework and comprehensive supports for students
- Encouraged professors to incorporate high-engagement strategies into their instruction
- Incentivized PSJA teachers to pursue adjunct status on at the local universities to reduce costs



- Four-year graduation rates increased from 62 percent in 2007 to **87 percent** in 2010
- In 2010-11, 1,700 out of 8,000 high school students **enrolled in concurrent enrollment courses**
- Since 2007, PSJA recovered and **graduated more than 1,000 former dropouts** ages 18-26 and connected them to college



“This school gives us a great advantage because they actually treat us like real college students, and that’s what’s giving us a head start. We’re experiencing the college life, that it’s hard, and we’re adapting already to it. So when we go to a bigger university like UTPA or Austin or A&M we already know, ‘Okay, this is hard. This is tough but I’m already used to it and I can do it.’”

– Junior at PSJA Thomas Jefferson
T-STEM Early College

Launching Early College Districtwide: Pharr-San Juan-Alamo's "College for All" Strategy

<http://www.jff.org/publications/education/launching-early-college-districtwide-pha/1404>

Hidalgo Early College Toolkit: hidalgo.jff.org

Taking College Courses in High School: A Strategy for College Readiness <http://www.jff.org/publications/education/taking-college-courses-high-school-strat/1475>

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